



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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28 DECEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
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LATE ITEM

North Vietnam

It is unclear why Moscow has decided to send one of its top leaders--party secretary Shelepin--to Hanoi right now. Part of the answer undoubtedly lies in Moscow's desire to make its influence felt in Hanoi, especially at this time. Moscow would want to discuss the pause in US bombing. The Soviets could see it as providing a good opportunity to encourage Hanoi to seek political alternatives to the war. They have been telling the North Vietnamese recently that they should encourage the Liberation Front to "facilitate negotiations when that stage is reached."

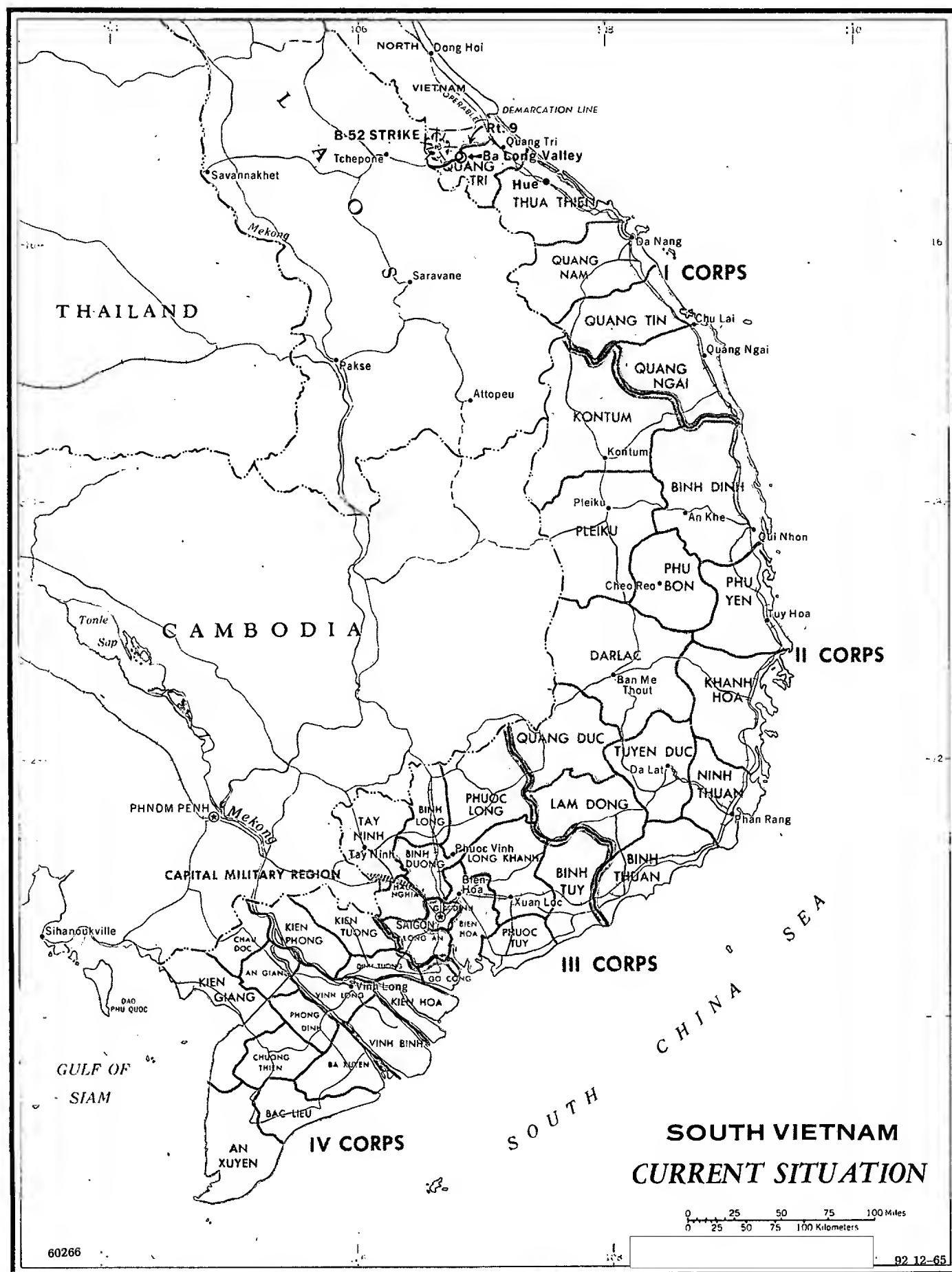
Hanoi, perhaps in an effort to balance Shelepin's visit, today gave wide publicity to an official newspaper article devoted to the "broad and tremendous support" given by China to North Vietnam. The article contains a reference (highlighted by the Associated Press today) to "several hundred thousand" Chinese who have volunteered to help Vietnam fight the US. This statement, however, appears in a middle paragraph which lists various gestures by the Chinese since August 1964, and in context does not convey any sense of imminent action or threat. Nonetheless the language used by Hanoi goes somewhat beyond standard statements concerning Peking's "willingness" to send volunteers.

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LATE ITEM (Cont'd)

North Vietnam

We think Hanoi's statement is another play in the tangled Sino-Soviet-Vietnamese relationship. With Shelepin's visit upcoming, the Vietnamese may want to assure Peking they have not moved into Moscow's camp and to remind Moscow that Peking is another, and closer, source of aid. The reference to volunteers in fact may be intended to put pressure on Peking as the Chinese have lately been less forthcoming in their public assurances of support for Hanoi.



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1. South Vietnam

The Viet Cong are continuing to build up their forces around Saigon. US officials on the scene report that seven Viet Cong regiments, ten Viet Cong battalions, and several smaller units may be within a 50-mile radius of the capital. In addition, the North Vietnamese 101st Regiment may be in nearby Bien Hoa Province.

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[REDACTED] Viet Cong forces farther north-- 50X1
in Quang Tri and Quang Ngai provinces--
are also being strengthened.

2. Indonesia

Sukarno's continuing refusal to ban the Communist Party is further alienating the army leadership and more officers are coming to the conclusions that Sukarno's forcible removal will be necessary. Most, however, still apparently plan to continue bypassing the president and hope, at least for the near future, to avoid the risks of ousting him.

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3. India-Burma

During his recent visit to Burma, Indian Prime Minister Shastri told the Burmese leader, General Ne Win, that India would regard any Chinese attack on Burma to be an attack on India. Shastri told Ambassador Bowles that he had found Ne Win "surprisingly outgoing" on all subjects, including China, "which he greatly fears." According to Shastri, Ne Win went out of his way to identify Burma's future with India.

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4. India

Prime Minister Shastri told Ambassador Bowles that he is "cautiously hopeful" about next week's talks in Tashkent with Ayub. He said he will discuss any subject and is prepared to compromise on any but one--control of the Kashmir valley, "which must remain in Indian hands."

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5. Zambia

Two Zambian cabinet ministers returned last night from a fast trip to Moscow, apparently with only generalized offers of support.

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Regarding press speculation that they had asked for Soviet military support, the Zambian emissaries said, "although this is untrue, we have not discounted it." The Zambians did talk with Kosygin, Podgorny, and Gromyko and made much on their return to Lusaka of Soviet assurances of support for any action Zambia may take designed to "restore legal government" in Rhodesia.

Kaunda continues disparaging of the US-British-Canadian efforts to keep his country afloat. The British, however, still seem confident that the difficulties of establishing the emergency oil lift into Zambia can be overcome before the small reserves there are expended.

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6. Turkey

Pressure is building up in Ankara for the suspension of US reconnaissance flights from Turkish bases.

Soviet reaction to the recent crash of a US reconnaissance plane in the Black Sea has been in low key and not by itself sufficient to cause the Turks to suspend the flights.

The pressure in Ankara seems more likely a reflection of the increasingly hostile attitude among some prominent Turks toward the US military presence in Turkey. Parliament is scheduled to discuss the question of US bases in the near future.

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7. Soviet Union

8. Italy

Amintore Fanfani's announcement today of his intention to resign as foreign minister comes at a bad time for the still fragile government coalition. Premier Moro is likely to find it hard to replace Fanfani since his selection must be acceptable to all coalition parties, particularly the Socialists. He is expected to try to persuade Fanfani to withdraw or postpone his resignation.

Fanfani has offered to resign several times since he became United Nations General Assembly president and he probably means it this time. He claims the furor over his involvement with the recent Vietnamese "peace" maneuver led him to his move. Actually, he seems to have his eye on politics back home. He would like to be premier again sometime.

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9. Cuba

Delegates from all over the world are moving toward Havana for next week's "Tri-continent Conference." It is to be a big and lavishly hosted affair with some 500 delegates from more than 100 countries of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The Viet Cong delegation is to be headed by a central committee member of the Liberation Front. US imperialism, from the Dominican Republic to Vietnam, is to be the principal target.

One of the aims is to expand the present Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization to include Latin American "liberation movements." There are in fact to be nationals in Havana from almost all Latin American countries claiming to represent such movements.

The stage is set for some new Sino-Soviet fireworks. Peking's delegation has already arrived in Havana, and there will be some other pro-Chinese representatives. Most, however, are likely to be sympathetic to the current Moscow-Havana line. Some delegations have even been given preconference briefings in Moscow "to ensure uniformity of ideas."

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